

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**Hearing on “The Obama Administration’s Climate Change Policies and Activities”**  
**September 18, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today’s hearing is about oversight of the president’s climate change policies and activities. It is disappointing that 11 agencies, which had ample notice to identify witnesses, including scientists, and work with staff to accommodate them on different panels, chose instead to decline our request. Climate policy is a central feature of this administration’s energy policy, and given the billions of dollars currently being spent on climate activities, there is no good reason for so many agencies to decide they cannot testify before this committee.

When the administration first attempted to impose its climate policies on the American public via cap-and-trade legislation in 2009, we needed a reality check.

At that time, it was noted that without meaningful international participation, jobs and emissions would simply shift overseas – and there would be no meaningful impact on global carbon emissions, or the temperature changes that may result from those emissions. Other nations would continue to seek to grow their own economies and would naturally take advantage of U.S. economic and manufacturing weakness.

Last week the Labor Department reported that there are still 11.3 million people unemployed, including 4.3 million long-term unemployed, and 7.9 million “involuntary” part-time workers, whose hours have been cut back or are unable to find full-time jobs.

It makes no sense to impose an ineffectual and economically harmful energy policy - one I would remind folks that was rejected through the front door here in

Congress by Senate Democrats. Unfortunately, the administration is now working to circumvent Congress through the backdoor – seeking to regulate what it was unable to legislate no matter what the cost to jobs and the economy. Thoughtful oversight is necessary so the public can understand more clearly what is happening, and what the impacts of the administration’s climate policies may be. And I believe it is a disservice to the public to suggest a policy approach will meaningfully address climate risks when in effect it will not, despite tens of billions of dollars spent and countless jobs lost.

Today, with the help of private innovation and America’s newfound energy abundance, the U.S. is the envy of the world as it relates to energy access and the safe and responsible development of energy resources. We stand at the threshold of profound economic opportunity for the nation and its future generations.

We should pursue constructing a new architecture of abundance as a central feature for future economic strength and to provide the economic foundation to address climate risks. There should be no question that the economic wherewithal fostered by America’s energy resurgence will provide a wide avenue for innovation that will answer energy and environmental challenges of the future.

It is good to have Secretary Moniz and Administrator McCarthy before us this morning. You two stand at the center of energy policy in this nation and your agencies will play either positive or negative roles to ensure a strong, vibrant, and innovative energy sector in the future.

My interest is to understand how you intend to address the new realities of American energy abundance, and what your respective agencies’ roles should be in promoting access to abundant, affordable energy resources that are so necessary to meeting future challenges. I look forward to having that discussion.

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